



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Contacts: Charla Skaggs, Consultant  
206-658-3054 (cell)  
[cskaggs@maulfoster.com](mailto:cskaggs@maulfoster.com)

Abbi Russell, Consultant  
360-787-3328 (cell)  
[arussell@maulfoster.com](mailto:arussell@maulfoster.com)

### **First public hearing for Spokane County redistricting set for July 19**

*Event includes overview of redistricting process and opportunity for public testimony*

**SPOKANE, Washington**—The first of four public hearings about the process of moving Spokane County from three county commissioner districts to five will be held on Monday, July 19. The process is being overseen by an Independent Redistricting Committee (IRC), which is hosting the public hearing.

Spokane County is the only county in Washington State that is increasing its number of commissioner voting districts to five. In keeping with legislation passed in 2018, the Responsible Representation Act, any non-chartered county with a population over 400,000 is required to have five county commissioner voting districts by 2022. This new legislation changes voting to district-based voting and requires elections for each district in 2022 with new staggered terms to be set beginning 2023.

**What:** Spokane County Redistricting Public Hearing #1  
**When:** 5:30 to 7:30 p.m. Monday, July 19  
**Where:** Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, [720 West Mallon Avenue, Spokane, WA 99201](https://www.spokaneva.org/) (Champion Room)  
**Virtual option:** <https://zoom.us/j/97082479718?pwd=VDJLTitFOVFBHQ2ZnN2h3SGJPNmZLdz09> (**Meeting ID:** 970 8247 9718, **Meeting Password:** 518970)

**Other details:** Parking is available in the lot across the street or on the street

During the hearing, attendees will hear a short presentation outlining the process and requirements of redistricting. The hearing will also include discussion by the IRC and opportunity for public testimony.



The IRC encourages attendance and public testimony from residents across the county, particularly about communities that residents would like to see preserved within a district, where those communities are located, and what makes those communities important to them.

After the public hearing, the IRC will begin drawing five new county commissioner districts for Spokane County. Informed by community input and population data, these draft maps will be used to develop a draft redistricting plan that must be published for public review by Aug. 24.

### **About redistricting**

As required by [Washington state law \(RCW 36.32.050\)](#), Spokane County is increasing its number of commissioners from three to five due to its population being over 400,000. This is happening while the state is also moving through the [state's decennial redistricting process](#), which requires congressional and state legislative electoral district boundaries to be redrawn following the release of the census data (published every 10-years). The IRC is working to assess the county's population, develop and publish a draft redistricting plan by Aug. 24, present preliminary options, and develop and submit a final plan to the Spokane County Auditor's office by Oct. 23.

New districts resulting from 2022 elections will take effect in January 2023 for Spokane County and staggered terms for the new commissioners will be set.

Public engagement and feedback opportunities are scheduled throughout the process, including an information session on Aug. 5 and a second public hearing Aug. 12.

For more information about Spokane County's redistricting process, public meetings, committee meetings and more, visit [www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com](http://www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com).

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*The Independent Redistricting Committee consists of four voting members and a non-voting chair. The voting members were appointed by local Republican and Democrat legislators. The Republican members of the redistricting committee are Robin Ball and Jim McDevitt. The Democrat members of the redistricting committee are Natasha Hill and Brian McClatchey. The Spokane County Board of Commissioners selected retired Providence Health Care executive Elaine Couture as non-voting chair to lead the IRC. For more information, visit [www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com](http://www.RedistrictSpokaneCo.com).*